

Committee on Atomic Energy.⁽⁸⁾ All of these committees have legislative jurisdiction with regard to particular aspects of energy resources and environmental protection, and the establishment of a new select committee would tend to hinder rather than further the legislative output of these committees.

The proponents of House Resolution 155 did not choose to deny the existence of jurisdictional changes but responded, instead, by arguing that a comprehensive analysis by the select committee would be preferable to the present approach. Mr. Dante B. Fascell, of Florida, a cosponsor of the resolution, argued that the Nation's energy problems could not be addressed on an "ad hoc basis."⁽⁹⁾ Mr. Thaddeus J. Dulski, of New

York, asserted that "overlapping responsibilities"⁽¹⁰⁾ were partly to blame for "what amounts to a desperate national energy crisis." Contending that there was a "definite interrelationship between fuels"⁽¹¹⁾ the understanding of which was essential to formulation of policy, Mr. Don Fuqua, of Florida, stated that "this resolution (H. Res. 155) will provide the most logical vehicle to define this interrelationship and provide us with a workable energy policy."

On a subsequent roll call vote, the resolution was rejected.⁽¹²⁾

§ 30. Committee on Agriculture

The Committee on Agriculture became a standing committee of the House on May 3, 1820,⁽¹³⁾ with jurisdiction over "subjects relating to agriculture."⁽¹⁴⁾ Under the rules revisions of 1880, this jurisdiction was extended to include forestry, and the committee was granted the authority to receive the estimates and report ap-

cludes [see Rule XI clause 14, *House Rules and Manual* § 709 (1973)] merchant marine generally [clause 14(a)], measures relating to the regulation of common carriers by water (except matters subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission) [clause 14(e)], navigation and the laws relating thereto, including pilotage [clause 14(g)], and the registering and licensing of vessels and small boats [clause 14(i)], among other subjects.

8. The jurisdiction of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy extended to the making of continuing studies of problems relating to the development, use, and control of atomic energy. See § 7, *supra*.
9. 117 CONG. REC. 17000, 92d Cong. 1st Sess., May 26, 1971.

10. *Id.* at p. 17001.

11. *Id.* at p. 17002.

12. *Id.* at p. 17003.

13. 4 Hinds' Precedents § 4149.

14. Terrence T. Finn, "Monographs on the Committees of the House of Representatives" (93d Cong. 2d Sess., Dec. 13, 1974) committee print, p. 6.

propriations bills for the Department of Agriculture. This latter authority was transferred to the Committee on Appropriations in 1920.⁽¹⁵⁾

The jurisdiction of the committee under the 1973 rules,⁽¹⁶⁾ which derived from the revisions effected by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, read as follows:

- (a) Adulteration of seeds, insect pests, and protection of birds and animals in forest reserves;
- (b) Agriculture generally;
- (c) Agricultural and industrial chemistry;
- (d) Agricultural colleges and experiment stations;
- (e) Agricultural economics and research;
- (f) Agricultural education extension services;
- (g) Agricultural production and marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural products;
- (h) Animal industry and diseases of animals;
- (i) Crop insurance and soil conservation;
- (j) Dairy Industry;
- (k) Entomology and plant quarantine;
- (l) Extension of farm credit and farm security;
- (m) Forestry in general, and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain;

15. 7 Cannon's Precedents § 1870.

16. Rule XI clause 1, *House Rules and Manual* § 677 (1973). See Rule X clause 1(a), *House Rules and Manual* § 670 (1979).

(n) Human nutrition and home economics;

(o) Inspection of livestock and meat products;

(p) Plant industry, soils, and agricultural engineering;

(q) Rural electrification.

Upon the adoption of the Committee Reform Amendments of 1974, paragraph 7 [paragraph (g) in the 1973 rules] was altered and paragraphs 18 and 19 were added as follows:⁽¹⁷⁾

(7) Agricultural production and marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural products, and commodities (not including distribution outside of the United States). . . .

(18) Commodities exchanges.

(19) Rural development.

The effect of these changes was to give the committee jurisdiction over agricultural commodities (including the Commodity Credit Corporation) but to transfer jurisdiction over foreign distribution and nondomestic production of commodities (except sugar) to the Committee on International Relations.⁽¹⁸⁾

In addition to these areas, the committee has reported on mat-

17. H. Res. 988, 120 CONG. REC. 34447-70, 93d Cong. 2d Sess., Oct. 8, 1974, effective Jan. 3, 1975. See Rule X clause 1(a)(7), (18), (19), *House Rules and Manual* § 670 (1975).

18. See Rule X clause 1(k), *House Rules and Manual* § 680 (1975) for the new jurisdiction of the Committee on International Relations.

ters not clearly indicated in the rules. Among these ⁽¹⁹⁾ are the following:

1. Animal welfare;
2. Flood control;
3. Food stamps;
4. Foreign assistance;
5. International health;
6. International trade;
7. Pesticides;
8. Rural development, including:
 - (a) Loans for rural firehouses, community centers, and businesses;
 - (b) Nonfarm rural housing loans;
 - (c) Rural telephone banks;
 - (d) Rural water supply;
 - (e) Water pollution control programs;
9. Wild areas (in forests).

Further elaboration on the extent of the committee's jurisdiction is provided by a partial list set forth by the Chairman ⁽²⁰⁾ of the Committee on Agriculture in the course of a statement ⁽²¹⁾ he made before the Committee on Rules on Mar. 2, 1971. Among the subject areas he listed were the following:

- (1) The restoration, expansion, and development of foreign markets for

19. "Monographs on the Committees of the House of Representatives" (93d Cong. 2d Sess., Dec. 13, 1974), committee print.

20. William R. Poage (Tex.).

21. Terrence T. Finn, "Monographs on the Committees of the House of Representatives" (93d Cong. 2d Sess., Dec. 13, 1974), committee print, p. 2.

American agricultural products and of international trade in agriculture products; the use of agricultural commodities pursuant to Public Law 480, Eighty-third Congress, as amended and the use of the foreign currencies accruing therefrom; and the effect of the European Common Market and other regional economic agreements and commodity marketing and pricing systems upon United States agriculture.

(2) All matters relating to the establishment and development of an effective Foreign Agricultural Service pursuant to title VI of the Agricultural Act of 1954.

(3) All matters relating to the development, use, and administration of the national forests, including but not limited to development of a sound program for general public use of the national forests consistent with watershed protection and sustained-yield timber management, and study of the forest fire prevention and control policies and activities of the Forest Service and their relation to coordinated activities of other Federal, State, and private agencies.

(4) Price spreads between producers and consumers.

(5) The formulation and development of improved programs for agricultural commodities; matters relating to the inspection, grading, and marketing of such commodities; and the effect of trading in futures contracts for such commodities.

(6) The administration and operation of agricultural programs through State and county agricultural stabilization and conservation committees and the administrative policies and procedures

relating to the selection, election, and operation of such committees.

(7) The development of upstream watershed projects authorized by Public Law 156, Eighty-third Congress, and the administration and development of watershed programs pursuant to Public Law 566, Eighty-third Congress, as amended; the development of land use programs pursuant to the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962 and the Agricultural Act of 1970.

(8) All programs of food assistance or distribution supported in whole or in part by funds authorized to be used by the Department of Agriculture, including but not limited to the food stamp program, the commodity distribution program, the school milk program, and programs established pursuant to the Child Nutrition Act of 1966.

(9) The implementation and administration of the Wholesome Meat Act of 1967, the Wholesome Poultry Products Act of 1968, and the Egg Products Inspection Act of 1970, including the establishment and development of inspection services as required by the Acts.

(10) All matters relating to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, and the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972, as well as all agricultural chemicals registered and regulated under such Act.

In addition to the subject areas already identified, as the precedents reveal, the Committee on Agriculture also has jurisdiction over measures regulating the transportation, sale, and handling of dogs and cats to be used for re-

search,⁽²²⁾ commodities owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation,⁽²³⁾ measures granting congressional consent to an interstate forest fire protection compact,⁽²⁴⁾ and certain watershed work plans.⁽²⁵⁾

In 1973, the Committee on Agriculture maintained six commodity subcommittees and four operational subcommittees, as follows:

COMMODITY SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Subcommittee on Cotton;
2. Subcommittee on Dairy and Poultry;
3. Subcommittee on Forests;
4. Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains;
5. Subcommittee on Oilseeds and Rice; and
6. Subcommittee on Tobacco.

OPERATIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Subcommittee on Conservation and Credit;
2. Subcommittee on Department Operations;
3. Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing and Consumer Relations; and
4. Subcommittee on Family Farms and Rural Development.

The oversight responsibilities of the committee extend to the Department of Agriculture, the Farm Credit Administration, and, in

²². § 30.2 *infra*.

²³. § 30.1, *infra*.

²⁴. § 30.5, *infra*.

²⁵. § 30.7, *infra*.

part, the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency. These duties are undertaken by the Subcommittee on Department Operations.

Commodities Owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation

§ 30.1 The Committee on Agriculture has jurisdiction of a measure which authorizes the sale, exchange, barter or donation of commodities owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

On June 9, 1954,⁽²⁶⁾ the Committee on Agriculture reported out a bill (S. 2475), to authorize the President to use agricultural commodities to improve the foreign relations of the United States, and for other purposes.

The measure ultimately became the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954.⁽²⁷⁾ This legislation authorized the President to negotiate with foreign governments for the purpose of selling or otherwise disposing of agricultural stocks owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation. The Corporation was

authorized, in addition, to barter such commodities, to donate them to state, federal, or private agencies for use school lunch programs, hospitals, and charitable institutions. The act directed the Secretary of Agriculture to utilize the authority given him by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act⁽²⁸⁾ to make barters or exchanges of agricultural commodities for strategic materials.

Parliamentarian's Note: The Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act was reported from the Committee on Banking and Currency in 1948,⁽¹⁾ and by agreement between that committee and the Committee on Agriculture, all measures amending the Charter Act were, until 1974, referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency. As in the instant case, however, the Committee on Agriculture has jurisdiction of many bills which deal with the sale, exchange, barter or donation of agricultural commodities owned by the Corporation.⁽²⁾ After the Com-

^{26.} 100 CONG. REC. 7981, 83d Cong. 2d Sess.

^{27.} 68 Stat. 454, 7 USC § 1691.

^{28.} 62 Stat. 1070, 15 USC § 714.

1. See the *Parliamentarian's Note* to §33.2, *infra*, for additional information.

2. Other examples of the Committee on Agriculture's jurisdiction in this regard would include: Pub. L. No. 84-50 [70 Stat. 188] by which the Corporation was authorized under regulations to be issued by the Secretary

mittee Reform Amendments of 1974, the Committee on Banking and Currency relinquished jurisdiction over the Commodity Credit Corporation to the Committee on Agriculture.

Domestic Animals

§ 30.2 In the 89th Congress, by a rereference, the House confirmed the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture (as distinguished from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce) of bills authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the transportation, sale, and handling of dogs and cats intended for use in research or experimentation.

On July 29, 1965,⁽³⁾ Oren Harris, of Arkansas, Chairman of the Committee on Interstate and For-

of Agriculture to donate food commodities acquired through price support operations to federal penal and correctional institutions; Pub. L. No. 86-756 [74 Stat. 899] authorizing the Corporation to donate dairy products and other agricultural commodities for use in home economics courses; and Pub. L. No. 87-179 [75 Stat. 411] permitting the use of donated foods under certain circumstances for training college students.

3. 111 CONG. REC. 18691, 89th Cong. 1st Sess.

eign Commerce, obtained unanimous consent that his committee be discharged from the consideration of three bills (H.R. 9750, H.R. 9869, and H.R. 9875) mentioned above, and that they be rereferred to the Committee on Agriculture. In so doing, Mr. Harris pointed out that an identical bill (H.R. 9743), had previously been rereferred earlier in the session.⁽⁴⁾

§ 30.3 The Committee on Agriculture and not the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries has jurisdiction over a bill relating to the domestic raising of fur-bearing animals.

On Feb. 14, 1945,⁽⁵⁾ Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, recognized Schuyler Otis Bland, of Virginia, Chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, who obtained unanimous consent that his committee be discharged from further consideration of a bill (H.R. 2115) relating to domestic raising of fur-bearing animals, and that it be rereferred to the Committee on Agriculture.⁽⁶⁾

4. 111 CONG. REC. 17981, 89th Cong. 1st Sess., July 22, 1965.

5. 91 CONG. REC. 1085, 79th Cong. 1st Sess.

6. H.R. 2115 was reported by the Committee on Agriculture on Dec. 10, 1945 (H. Rept. No. 1346).

§ 30.4 The Committee on Agriculture and not the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries has jurisdiction of a bill transferring government activities in connection with domestic rabbits to the Department of Agriculture.

On Jan. 22, 1945,⁽⁷⁾ Speaker Sam Rayburn, of Texas, recognized Schuyler Otis Bland, of Virginia, Chairman of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, who sought unanimous consent that a bill (H.R. 95) to transfer government activities in connection with domestic rabbits to the Department of Agriculture be rereferred from his committee to the Committee on Agriculture.

No objection being voiced, the rereferral was effected.⁽⁸⁾

Forest Fire Protection

§ 30.5 The Committee on Agriculture and not the Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction of a bill granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact.

7. 91 CONG. REC. 424, 79th Cong. 1st Sess.

8. For a similar rereferral, see 90 CONG. REC. 2794, 78th Cong. 2d Sess., Mar. 20, 1944.

On May 26, 1954,⁽⁹⁾ Speaker Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts, recognized Chauncey W. Reed, of Illinois, Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, who obtained unanimous consent to have his committee discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6393), and to have it rereferred to the Committee on Agriculture.⁽¹⁰⁾

Water Conservation

§ 30.6 The Committee on Agriculture and not the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has jurisdiction of a bill to amend section 7 of the act of Aug. 11, 1939, as amended, authorizing construction of water conservation and utilization projects in the Great Plains and arid and semiarid areas of the United States—a law which provided water supply for farmers.

On Mar. 17, 1953,⁽¹¹⁾ Speaker Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts, recognized Arthur L. Miller, of Nebraska, Chairman of

9. 100 CONG. REC. 7138, 83d Cong. 2d Sess.

10. H.R. 6393 was reported by the Committee on Agriculture on July 12, 1954 (H. Rept. No. 2179).

11. 99 CONG. REC. 2004; 83d Cong. 1st Sess.

the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, who made the following request:

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2229, a bill to increase the maximum amount of Federal funds which may be expended for any one water facilities project in the arid and semiarid areas of the United States, and that it be referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

It is the sense of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs that this bill properly comes within the scope and jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture.

The Chair then inquired as to whether there was any objection, and none being stated, the measure was rereferred.

Watershed Work Plans

§ 30.7 Two of four communications received from the Director of the Bureau of the Budget relating to watershed work plans were referred to the Committee on Agriculture pursuant to the requirements of 16 USC §1002.

On Aug. 13, 1957,⁽¹²⁾ two of four⁽¹³⁾ communications (Exec.

Comm. Nos. 1122–1125), from the Director of the Bureau of the Budget transmitting watershed work plans were taken from the Speaker's table and referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

The referrals in question were identified, as follows:

1122. A letter from the Director, Bureau of the Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a watershed work plan for the Caney Creek watershed, Arkansas, pursuant to section 5 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (68 Stat. 667), as amended by the act of August 7, 1956 (70 Stat. 1088), and Executive Order No. 10654 of January 20, 1956; to the Committee on Agriculture. . . .

1124. A letter from the Director, Bureau of the Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a watershed work plan for the Lacamas Creek tributaries watershed, Washington, pursuant to section 5 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (68 Stat. 667; Public Law 566, 83d Cong.) and Executive Order No. 10654 of January 20, 1956; to the Committee on Agriculture.

Parliamentarian's Note: Pursuant to the requirements of 16 USC §1002, the Committee on Agriculture has jurisdiction of executive communications relating to watershed work plans involving no single structure providing more than 4,000 acre-feet of total capacity, and the Committee on Public Works has jurisdiction of such plans involving any single struc-

12. 103 CONG. REC. 14628, 85th Cong. 1st Sess.

13. The other two (Exec. Comm. Nos. 1123, 1125) were referred to the Committee on Public Works.

ture of more than 4,000 acre-feet of total capacity.

§ 31. Committee on Appropriations

Created in 1865 out of jurisdiction formerly accorded the Committee on Ways and Means,⁽¹⁴⁾ the Committee on Appropriations has been concerned traditionally with the “appropriation of the revenue for the support of the Government.”⁽¹⁾ Today, the committee has plenary jurisdiction over all appropriation bills for the various departments and agencies of government. Historically, the committee’s jurisdiction has undergone periodic transformation as various committees had at certain times jurisdiction over particular appropriation bills.⁽²⁾

The largest standing committee in the House, with 55 members in 1973, the Committee on Appropriations possesses 13 subcommittees. The latter vary in size from eight to 12 members and consist of:

1. The Subcommittee on Agriculture-Environmental and Consumer Protection;

14. 4 Hinds’ Precedents § 4032.

1. This language was used in the 1865 rule as well as the 1880 revision. In 1865, however, more detail followed the general description. See 4 Hinds’ Precedents § 4032.
2. *Id.* at § 4032.

2. The Subcommittee on Defense;
3. The Subcommittee on the District of Columbia;
4. The Subcommittee on Foreign Operations;
5. The Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Development-Space-Science- Veterans [Matters];
6. The Subcommittee on the Interior;
7. The Subcommittee on Labor-Health, Education and Welfare;
8. The Subcommittee on Legislative [Matters];
9. The Subcommittee on Military Construction;
10. The Subcommittee on Public Works-Atomic Energy Commission;
11. The Subcommittee on State, Justice, Commerce and the Judiciary;
12. The Subcommittee on Transportation;
13. The Subcommittee on Treasury-Postal Service-General Government.

In addition to its jurisdiction over “appropriation of the revenue for the support of the Government,”⁽³⁾ the committee under the 1973 rules,⁽⁴⁾ was expressly authorized whether “acting as a whole or by any subcommittee . . . to conduct studies and examinations of the organization and operation of any executive department or other executive agency.” Each subcommittee was assigned jurisdiction over specific agencies,

3. Rule XI clause 2(a), *House Rules and Manual* § 679 (1973).
4. Rule XI clause 2(b), *House Rules and Manual* § 679 (1973).